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Editorial Notes

Presbyterianism in Richmond, Va., is brightening up. The Westminster Church has called Fair and the Grace Street Church has called Lilly.

Statistics show that the consumption of beer in Great Britain is 27.81 gallons per capita. It is no wonder that intemperance is given as the chief cause for the rapidly increasing number of the unemployed in the United Kingdom.

The death of King Leopold, of Belgium, was noted in our last issue. Of course the concern of the Christian world is as to the character of his nephew who has succeeded him on the throne. The daily papers speak of him as Albert the good. We trust that this description is correct, and that the horrors in the Congo Free State are at an end.

Among the editor's pleasures are frequent letters conveying messages of approval and appreciation. From far away Colorado Springs we have these words from an esteemed lady: "The paper is welcomed by me with much pleasure and profit. May its helpfulness be increased as the years go by. "We confidently expect that this wish will be realized, and such words of cordial appreciation are a wholesome stimulus toward increasing helpfulness and merit.

Grover Cleveland was a man of great common sense and keen observation. He once said, "We still think

that we know better what the boys should study than the boys themselves." The curriculum, devised by wisdom and experience, must ever be a better training than a self-selected course of study, up to the time when the youth has sufficient development to enter independently upon some special line. Elective courses for youth have been a snare in multitudes of cases.

One mail a few days ago brought to us the request that the church set apart three of the fifty-two Sundays of the year to special objects which are good in themselves, but in no way connected with the direct work of the church. We are thinking of keeping a list of these applications. There are not enough Sundays in the year to meet the demand. Shall we surrender what we have and leave none for the church herself and the direct preaching of the gospel?

A remarkable celebration was held at Tokio, in Japan, in October, 1909. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the first missionaries there, in 1859. At that time the missionaries were forbidden by law to ask any Japanese to profess Christianity. Now the Prime Minister of Japan sends his representative to give a welcome to this Conference of Christian workers. The Governor of the province sent another representative with a welcome, and so did the Minister of Education, and the Mayor of Tokio. And Count Okuma came in person to express his appreciation of the value of Christianity.

Thirteen years did the first missionaries, Ballagh and Williams and Hepburn, labor, before the first church, of eight members, was organized. This was in 1872, and it was done secretly, under fear of death. Now the number of Christians in Japan is between fifty and a hundred thousand. The "Church of Christ in Japan" (Presbyterian) has a membership of 18,140, and there are several other denominations.

Dr. Hepburn is nearly a hundred years old—resting at his home in New Jersey. He sent a telegram, which reads "Your labor is not in vain in the Lord." How blessed is the privilege of looking back over such a ministry. His thirteen years of apparent fruitlessness when the law forbade him to enroll a convert—how short does it now appear, and how does he rejoice over patient perseverances in well-doing in those by-gone days. In this there is a lesson for each of us.